

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling the allocation of investment funds of a user, including the steps of:

5 selecting from a set of industry standard rules for distinguishing investment asset classes;

selecting, from the selected set of industry standard rules, different asset classes in which the user is to have investments;

selecting the investment limits in which the user is to have investments in the different asset classes selected by the user; and

10 determining when the user is to be notified that the user's investment in an individual one of the different asset classes is outside of the investment limits established by the user for the individual ones of the different asset classes.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1, including the step of:

15 selecting the mode by which the user is to be notified that the user's investment in individual ones of the different asset classes is outside of the limits established by the user for these asset classes.

3. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

20 after the user receives notification that the user's investment in individual ones of the different asset classes is outside of the limits established by the user for these asset classes, the user determines what changes, if any, the user wishes to make in the rules by which the user's investment funds are allocated.

4. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the determination is made in real time at pre-selected intervals and wherein

the user is notified in real time of the determination when the determination is made.

5. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein

the user selects the mode by which the user is to be notified that the user's investment in individual ones of the different asset classes is outside of the limits established by the user for these asset classes and wherein

after the user receives notification that the user's investment in individual ones of the different asset classes is outside of the limits established by the user for these asset classes, the user determines what changes, if any, the user wishes to make in the rules by which his investment funds are allocated and wherein

the determination is made in real time at pre-selected intervals and wherein

the user is notified in real time of the determination when the determination is made.

6. A method of controlling the allocation of investment funds for a user acting on behalf of a participant, including the steps of:

selecting, from a set of industry standard rules, investment asset classes to govern the investment of the user for the participant,

selecting the investment limits in which the user is to provide investments in different one of the selected asset classes for the participant, and

determining when the user is to be notified that the investments for the user in the individual ones of the different asset classes are outside of the investment limits established by the user in the individual ones of the asset classes.

7. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
the user represents himself or herself.
8. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
the user represents an individual other than the user.
- 5 9. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
the user represents a group or class of individuals.
- 10 10. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
when the investment in an individual one of the asset classes selected
by the user is in excess of limits established by the asset class, dealing with the
excess in accordance with instructions from the user.
- 15 11. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
when the investment in an individual one of the asset classes selected
by the user is in excess of limits established by the user for the asset class, dealing
with the excess in accordance with one of the following relationships: (a)
acknowledging the situation but taking no remedial action, (b) changing the
diversification limits in the individual one of the asset classes or (c) changing the
asset allocation.
- 20 12. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
the mode of communicating to the user is changed when the
investment in an individual one of the asset classes is outside of the limit
established by the user for the asset class.

13. A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein
the user represents (a) himself or herself, (b) an individual other than
the user or (c) a group or class of individuals and wherein

when the investment in an individual one of the asset classes selected
5 by the user is in excess of the limit established by the user for the asset class,
dealing with the excess in accordance with instructions from the user.

14. A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein
when the investment in an individual one of the asset classes selected
by the user is in excess of the limit established by the user for the asset class,
10 dealing with the excess in accordance with one of the following relationships: (a)
acknowledging the situation but taking no remedial action, (b) changing the
diversification limits in the individual one of the asset classes or (c) changing the
asset allocation and wherein

the frequency or mode of communicating to the user is changed when
15 the investment in an individual one of the asset classes is in excess of the limit
established by the user for the asset class.

15. In a method of controlling the allocation of investment funds for a
user, the steps of:
establishing a plurality of asset classes for the user's investment and a
20 limit for the user's investment in each of the asset classes,

periodically determining the user's investment in each of the asset
classes, and

providing a notification to the user, upon each periodic determination,
whether or not the user's investment in each asset class exceeds the limit established
25 by the user for the asset class.

16. In a method as set forth in claim 15, the step of:
determining from the user, upon each notification to the user, whether
the user wishes to change any of the asset classes or the investment limit in any of
the asset classes.

5 17. In a method as set forth in claim 16, the step of:
providing the notification to the user in a notification mode selected
by the user.

18. In a method as set forth in claim 16, the step of:
changing the periodicity of the notification when the notification
10 indicates that the investment of the user in at least an individual one of the asset
classes exceeds the specified investment limit for the assets in the asset class.

19. In a method as set forth in claim 16, the step of:
changing the asset classes and the particular limits in each of the asset
classes when the user provides a notification to this effect.

15 20. In a method as set forth in claim 16, the step of:
receiving from the user, upon a notification to the user of an excess
above a specified limit in an asset class, one of the following: (a) an
acknowledgement of the notification without any change in any of the asset classes,
(b) a change in the limits in at least one of the asset classes and (c) a change in the
20 allocation of the investments among the asset classes.

21. In a method of controlling the allocation of investment funds of a
user, the steps of:
designating an individual one of a plurality of asset classification
systems,

selecting, in the designated one of the asset classification systems,
asset classes in which investments are to be provided, and

periodically indicating to the user the investments in each of the
selected asset classes and the values of these investments.

5 22. In a method as set forth in claim 21, the step of:
 notifying the user of the investments for the user in each asset class in
a notification mode selected by the user.

 23. In a method as set forth in claim 21 where
 the notification mode includes regular mail, facsimile, e-mail and
10 system alert messages.

 24. In a method as set forth in claim 21, the step of:
 providing an opportunity to the user to change the asset classes in
which investments are made for the user.